



THE LEADER

Vol. 37, No. 43

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.grandforks.af.mil

Nov. 1, 2002

Bundle up!

How to survive
North Dakota
winters

Pages 10, 11



319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Solano Trophy Winner ♦ Best Base in 15th Air Force

Inside: Deployment

Weekend weather

Today	35/21	windy
Saturday	36/19	partly cloudy
Sunday	32/20	partly cloudy
Monday	34/18	mostly cloudy



Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

rates
up

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AMC
commander
visits

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Once
in a
lifetime

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Warrior aircrews prevail despite challenges

By Capt. Patricia Lang
Public affairs

Grand Forks KC-135 aircrews can expect a 30 percent increase in deployment and temporary duty taskings this fiscal year. Last year, aircraft commanders averaged about 179 days away from home – now the average may run closer to 230 in any 365-day period.

“This has become the new steady state,” said Col. Cathy Clothier, 319th Operations Group commander. “We’ve evolved to where this is normal. This has become our way of life. Prior to Sept. 11 (2001), we would occasionally deploy. Now, as we fight this War on Terrorism, we are occasionally home.”

The mission was mostly Cold War alert when Clothier began flying KC-135s in 1983. More than a decade later

– during her squadron commander days from 1995 to 1998 – KC-135 aircrews were gone an average of 90 days per crew member per year, she said.

Now two decades later, tanker crews and many other weapon systems have experienced definite increases in time away from home station as the Air Force transitions from the Cold War to an expeditionary mindset.

Senior leaders, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who more than a year ago characterized the War on Terrorism as “a marathon, not a sprint,” anticipate continuation and sustainment. Few people foresee any decrease in commitments.

The 319th Air Refueling Wing, for example, dedicated its resources to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle this past fiscal year. When Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve forces completed their one-year of active service this past September, the 319th picked up the Operation Northern Watch mission based out of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

The wing received no additional aircraft or personnel – that translates into an increased operations tempo for aircrews. Aircrews will typically be out for 45 days, Clothier said, and then home for 14 to 21 days before they deploy to another location.

Slated to deploy herself this December, Clothier is quick to credit the “sharp and professional aircrews who are truly living most of their lives overseas fighting this War on Terrorism.”

“They’re upbeat and enthusiastic,” she said. “They know their mission. They know their job. They’ll do this job well.”

The difficulty is that for every eight weeks, most aircrews will spend about six of them gone. “Our wing helps,”



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

First Lt. Albert Hibpsman and Capt. Don Jentgens, 911th Air Refueling Squadron, go over flight procedures aboard a KC-135 en route to Base Y in October.

Clothier said, “by taking care of families back home with family support systems.”

Clothier said she is proud of what people are accomplishing.

“They’re hitting every challenge head-on,” she said, “and they’re overcoming them.”

An aircrew example close-at-hand was 1st Lt. Joe Maxon, 906th Air Refueling Squadron, Clothier said.

During mission planning for the leg from RAF Mildenhall, England, to Base Y, the crew had difficulty getting the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to pass the flight plan in the proper file format for loading into the aircraft system.

“With limited resources available, Maxon immediately began working to convert the file himself. He knew the crew needed this data and he wasn’t going to quit,” Clothier said. “He had an obstacle and he overcame it. That’s the story of the Warriors of the North!”



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Col. Cathy Clothier, 319th Operations Group commander, looks back while at the controls of a KC-135R Stratotanker during a recent mission. Clothier’s aircrews in the 319th OG have faced increased operations tempo since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001.



THE LEADER

Getting ready for a new winter season at Grand Forks Air Force Base: This issue of The Leader is dedicated to informing readers on everything from winter safety to severe weather reporting.

Bundle up!



Illustration by Senior Airman Monte Volk and Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

78%

Air Refueling Effectiveness Rate from Oct. 21 through 27.

13

DWI-free days. The base gets a down day for 100 DWI-free days.

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Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1150 before noon Tuesday.

AMC commander visits base, thanks members for hard work

By Senior Airman Monte Volk
319th Public affairs

The Department of Defense's single manager for global air, land and sea transportation paid a first-hand visit to the base, Tuesday.

Gen. John Handy, Air Mobility Command and U.S. Transportation Command commander, had two purposes for his visit.

"Both the civilian and base communities, under tremendous stress and strain, have pulled together," said Handy. "I wanted to come by and look them in the eye and say thank you for the great work they've done over this last year."

He also came to look at the facilities.

"We, as an Air Force, have invested a great deal into the base and visiting allows us to see proof-positive, things are going well," said Handy. "Our responsibility is to stay prepared, and the wing is proof-positive of those capabilities; ready to do what the nation needs at any time. That's an important aspect of retaining Grand Forks as a superior base."

Due to the base's capabilities, its members are actively engaged in the War on Terrorism and deployed around the world.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Denise Geiger

Gen. Handy is greeted by wing members upon his arrival Tuesday. Chief Master Sgt. Danny Holwerda, center, 319th Air Refueling Wing command chief, renders a proper salute.

"This wing, because of its size and quality of people, will be engaged anywhere in the world we are asked to go," said Handy. "The base is capable of doing anything we need them to do, anywhere in the world, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and capable to last 365 days or multiples of 365 days in the future."

With these capabilities and limited numbers of people, the potential to be stretched thin exists.

"I spend more time concerned about the people and the families and how long you can run a marathon ... and we're really in a marathon now," said Handy. "So the mission is to take care of the people and try to get them some stability and predictability and in some cases, modify the impact on their personal lives. That's an issue that many leaders everywhere, including myself, actively concern ourselves with."

Despite the heavy pace at the beginning of this marathon, military members have been keeping pace.

"What I see is incredibly high morale and intensity," said Handy. "People understand we are in a real war. Our nation has been attacked. We did not choose this fight, but now we are engaged and we will prevail. We will win this. That's the spirit I see out there."

"You can tell by looking in peoples' eyes that they may be tired or they may be stressed, but they're not about to say 'I give up' or 'I cave in' or 'I'm too stressed' or 'I'm too worn out,'" said Handy. "These are people who are dedicated to this fight. They understand why we are in the uniform. They are proud of the uniform they wear. I see people who are incredibly dedicated to do the things they have to do; but I know full well in my mind that these are also people you have to some how throttle back, to help take that stress off their backs. You don't want to run them to the point that it gets too much."

From the initial surges this past year until now; the tempo of the marathon is beginning to even out.

"From an Air Mobility perspective our OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO is down some what," said Handy. "During the peak, we normally flew 350 to 380 missions per day around the world and now we're flying around 280 to 290 missions per day around the world. That's a pretty bumper sticker of how our tempo has been reduced over the last

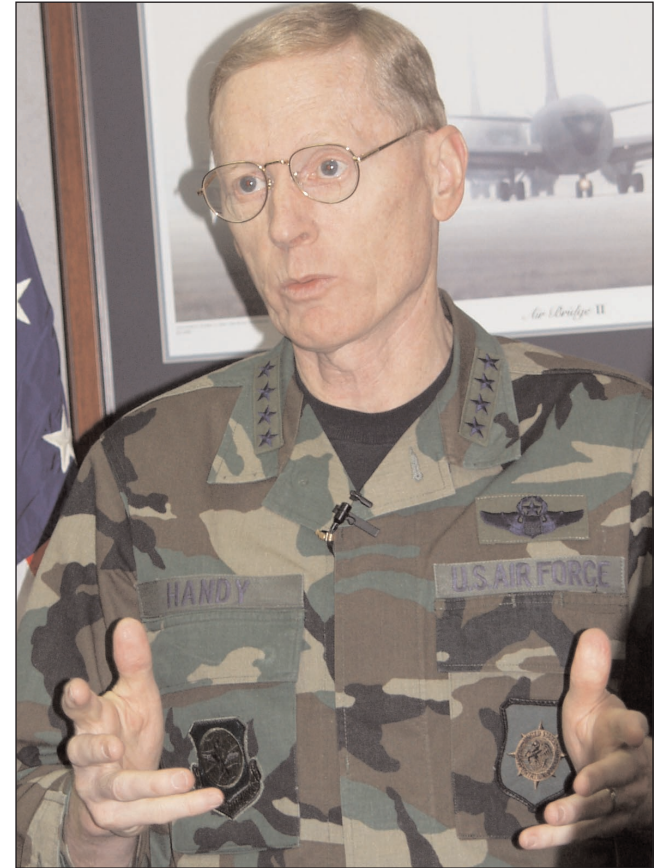


Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Gen. John Handy, Air Mobility and U.S. Transportation Command commander, speaks to reporters during his visit Tuesday.

months and into a somewhat steady state environment, as opposed to what we were in January and February and through the early spring and summer."

Although things seem to be tapering off, we must remain prepared, as an Air Force, Air Mobility Command, wing and individuals, at anytime to do the things the nation needs, and it isn't always a war. It could be earthquakes, typhoons or crises of humanitarian size anywhere in the world.

"All the natural, common sense things we do as military members routinely is all the more important," said Handy. "As you think about the stresses and strains we have on us today, we have to pace ourselves. The marathon analogy is certainly appropriate."

Every marathon has water stops and we in the military need our water stops, as we go through the months and years ahead. It could be years before we see our way to the end, which is certainly hard to find in war like we find ourselves in."

Air Force demonstrates ‘smart tanker’ concept

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AMCNS) — The Air Force moved one step closer to achieving its ‘smart tanker’ vision Oct. 23 when the first Roll-on Beyond Line of Sight Enhancement, or ROBE, pallet-equipped tanker successfully relayed communication data while flying from here to Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Maj Gen Robert F. Behler, commander, Air Force Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center at Langley AFB, Va., said, “This is no minor event. We now have connectivity for our warfighters. This was achieved in six months when the warfighters’ requirements for ROBE were validated.”

Right after Sept. 11, 2001, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper stated the need to move faster toward network-centric warfare and described a vision of using air refueling tankers as airborne “nodes” of a warfighter communications network.

One of the goals for Air Force transformation is the integration of military assets. The “smart tanker” expands the air refueling mission to one of communications platform. The general directed the transformation effort to increase the use and effectiveness of the tankers that are “always there,” close to danger zones or flying intercontinental routes as part of Air Mobility Command’s airbridge.

During the Oct. 23 flight, the Air Force demonstrated its ability to connect the beyond-line-of-sight with the line-of-sight Air Force by relaying data from the KC-135 ROBE. ROBE translates and extends the range of communications that will allow all warfighters to have the same situational awareness, whether en route, engaged or air refueling. Aircrews then have the same operational picture.

ROBE will become a vital part of a global

network to provide critical data to warfighters more quickly for faster decision-making and time sensitive engagement of critical targets. This translates directly to information superiority on the battlefield.

ROBE is the first in a family of Scalable, Modular, Airborne, Relay Terminals, or SMART, that will grow in capability with the availability of software programmable radios and advanced antennas. SMART terminals will reside on tankers and will be suitable for other platforms including unmanned and ground- or sea-based vehicles.

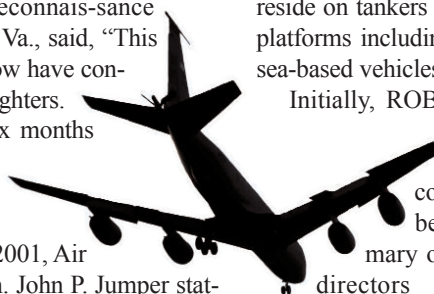
Initially, ROBE will be a data relay that will allow Line of Sight/Beyond Line of Sight communication among members of the network. The primary objective is to connect battle directors in the Air and Space Operations Center to those communicating in theater or en route.

During the demonstration, a ROBE pallet-equipped KC-135 from the 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., successfully moved all tactical data from deployed F-15s and Joint STARS to an operations center at Hanscom AFB. The demonstration team also reset the system during flight to demonstrate that the ROBE system can be remotely controlled from the ground.

Dr. James G. Roche, secretary of the Air Force, endorsed ROBE in March, calling for “no more vanilla tankers.”

Members of the AFC2ISRC, Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom AFB, and Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Ill., worked as a team to transform the smart tanker vision into reality.

By May, the Air Force will field the first ROBE-equipped SMART tanker and complete delivery of the remaining 19 palletized systems and 39 modified aircraft by next fall.



News

Briefs

OSC scholarship auction

The officers' spouses' club hosts their annual scholarship auction Saturday in the Club, with the silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. Live auction starts at 7 p.m. with Bob Concannon as the auctioneer. All are welcome to come for bidding and pay-as-you-go bar. See 'Auction' flyer, right, for a list of items.

A country chicken buffet is available with reservations. Call Penny Shaw at 594-6362 for reservations by Oct. 30. Cost for the meal is \$7.50 for club members and \$10.50 for non members.

Base shuttle

The 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron will start a base shuttle Monday. The times are 6 to 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 to 5 p.m. The bus will run every 30 minutes for active duty and space-available passengers. A more detailed set of times will be posted on Channel 3.

For details call Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Loew at 747-3153.

AMXS spouses group

The next 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron spouse's group meeting is 7

p.m. Monday in the Sunflower Chapel basement. To arrange for babysitting or for details call Jeanette Allison at 773-4016.

Newcomer's orientation

The next base newcomer's orientation is 7:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Club. Military members are encouraged to bring their spouses.

Free child care is also provided at the child development center. Call them at 747-3042 to arrange.

For details on the orientation, call Senior Airman Mandy Gauthier at 747-4902.

Heart-link seminar

The family support center holds its heart-link seminar 9 a.m. Nov. 18 in the FSC classroom.

The seminar is designed for non-military spouses with less than five years association with the military.

Spouses should attend and discover their importance as an Air Force spouse to the base and to meet the wing commander.

For details or to sign up, call the FSC at 747-3241.

Auction

More than 80 items, plus doorprizes

Who: Open to all with access to base

When: Saturday

Silent Auction at 6 p.m.

Live Auction at 7p.m.

Where: The club

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Pamper Yourself Package from Classic Image (pedicure/facial/massage/haircut/style) | ■ 6 Symphony Tickets |
| ■ 4 UND Hockey Tickets | ■ Car Care Package |
| ■ 4 UND Basketball Tickets | ■ Hunter's Sled Package |
| ■ Remote Ignition Starter | ■ Several Wine Baskets |
| ■ Autographed Picture of Dante Culpepper | ■ Beer Basket |
| ■ Lazyboy Recliner | ■ Cell phones |
| ■ Handmade Quilts | ■ Waterford Crystal |
| ■ Limited Edition copper and brass ornaments from Badman's Designs | ■ Numerous massage packages |
| ■ Family portrait session and free 8x10 from Behl's | ■ Rival Roaster Oven |
| ■ "Band of Brothers" video set | ■ Many variety baskets |
| ■ Hand-painted watercolor notecards | ■ Homemade cakes, breads and other goodies |
| ■ Coach handbag | ■ Lots of items for home decorating from Red Geranium, Back Porch, Marshall Fields |
| ■ Stone Mountain handbag | ■ Christening blanket |
| ■ Hotel/dinner packages (Hilton, Lakeview Inn, Sander's, Lola's) | ■ Casino overnight package |
| ■ Longaberger baskets | ■ Gift certificates to local restaurants |
| ■ Power Tool Package | ■ Homecooked Thanksgiving Day meal delivered to your home |
| | ■ Porcelain Dolls |
| | ■ Items from Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Stamp N Up, and Creative Memories |

Auction proceeds will benefit the Officers' Spouses' Club Scholarship Fund for military dependents. For details see OSC scholarship auction brief, left.

Winter clothing: wear it properly

Old man winter is beginning to show his face once again in the Northland. It's the time when winter weather gear becomes a forethought in our minds as we ready ourselves for each day.

If you've spent a winter here, you know it can become a matter of life and death, we must take precautions to ensure our safety in freezing temperatures – something our southern counterparts take for granted.

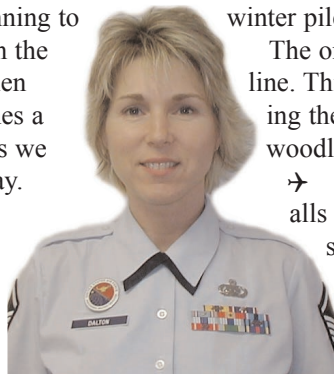
However, this is not the time to forget military tradition and standards. Our Air Force has taken great strides to ensure our safety while preserving the pride and prestige of wearing the Air Force uniform.

In an effort to uphold this time-honored tradition, the first things that should always be remembered when putting on your uniform each day, are the four elements of uniform wear – neatness, cleanliness, safety and military image.

Keeping these things in mind will assist you in putting forth your best possible appearance.

In an effort to keep you looking sharp and professional during the official winter weather dates of Oct. 1 through April 30, here are some of the more common things to remember:

- ➔ Outer-garments must be removed upon entering an office environment.
- ➔ The extreme cold weather parka is authorized with all uniform combinations, however, only during the official winter weather dates.
- ➔ The Gortex jacket may be worn without the accompanying pants, however the pants are not to be worn without the jacket.
- ➔ The woodland parka can only be worn during the official winter weather dates. It is authorized to be worn only in combination with the battle dress uniform or flight suit.
- ➔ The hood of the field/BDU jacket will not take the place of appropriate headgear, such as the BDU cap or organizational ball cap, stocking cap, or the green



**Master Sgt.
Barbara J. Dalton**
Airman Leadership School
flight chief

winter pile cap.

The only exception is on the flight-line. This rule also applies when wearing the Gortex jacket, parka and woodland parka.

➔ Issued Polar King coveralls can only be worn in the duty section/work area. The two-piece suit will always be worn as a complete uniform. This functional uniform item may only be worn during the official winter weather dates.

➔ Earmuffs may be worn with outer-garments and the service dress uniform. The

acceptable colors are dark blue, black or gray.

➔ The lightweight blue jacket must be zipped up at least halfway.

➔ When wearing more than one thermal undergarment, or an undergarment in conjunction with an undershirt, only one should show.

➔ The stocking cap (U.S. Navy Watch Cap) is authorized with the BDU, functional and aircrew flight uniforms during official winter weather dates.

➔ Gloves are authorized in either black or gray when wearing appropriate outer garments.

➔ Hands should not be placed in pockets for any extended period of time.

➔ As with any uniform item, clothing should always be neat, clean, pressed, fit properly and be kept in good condition.

➔ Personnel should ensure the uniform is properly zipped, and/or snapped or buttoned.

This list is not all-inclusive. More information on the wear of the uniform can be found in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel; Air Force Policy Directive 36-29, Military Standards, and elements of uniform wear and also in the Air Mobility Command and Grand Forks Air Force Base supplements.

Attention to detail can help you survive North Dakota winters, while remaining sharp and professional.

We want you to look and feel your best as you head into the upcoming winter months.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

The Four Feathers (PG-13)

Based on the novel by A.E.W. Mason, the story takes place in 1898 Sudan. British officer Harry Faversham (Heath Ledger) resigns his post just before the battle of Omdurman. His fiancée (Kate Hudson) and three friends (one of whom is played by Wes Bentley) present him with four white feathers, symbolizing his cowardice. But Faversham is actually planning to go undercover in the hopes of redeeming himself.

Saturday, 3 p.m.

Swimfan (PG-13)

The new girl in town (Erika Christensen) becomes obsessed with a popular champion high-school swimmer (Jesse Bradford) with Olympic prospects. When he turns her down, she develops a Fatal Attraction-style crush on him.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

The Good Girl (R)

Jennifer Aniston plays Justine, a small-town Texas store clerk trapped in a stale marriage with a husband, Phil, who she suspects is infertile due to his chronic pot smoking. Frustrated and feeling neglected, she finds a seemingly kindred spirit in Holden (Jake Gyllenhaal), a younger clerk claiming to be named after the famous J.D. Salinger character. Before long, the two begin an affair, but things become complicated when she gets pregnant and her husband's best friend, Bubba (Tim Blake Nelson), threatens to reveal her secret.

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday.

No weekday mass until Nov. 21

Pray the Rosary: 11:30 a.m., Sunflower Chapel, Mondays through Fridays

CCD: 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary School

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel

PROTESTANT:

Traditional Protestant worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Liturgical worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.

Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel

Singles: 6 p.m. Friday, meet at Prairie Rose Chapel annex

Youth: 4 p.m. Sunday, meet at youth center

Religious Education: 9 a.m. Sunday, Eielson Elementary School.

Men of the Chapel: noon Monday, Prairie Rose conference room

JEWISH:

For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details call 747-5673.

Halloween fun



No clowning around, this boy came dressed for the party.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

A base youth enjoys some candy with his mother during the Halloween carnival in Liberty Square Saturday. Hundreds of people showed up for the event.



Another youth hangs on to her candy while she is held by her father.

Winter season brings new safety concerns

By Tech. Sgt. Rodney Krause
319th Air Refueling Wing safety office

Once again it's that time of year to prepare for another North Dakota winter. Since winter driving in this region can be very unpredictable, the following four precautions may help you avoid an unpleasant or dangerous situation when traveling.

1. Prepare your vehicle for winter to keep it in top operating condition. This will improve safety as well as fuel economy. Vehicle winterizing checklists are available on the base Intranet at <http://w3/Units/319HQ/Safety/Cold%20Hard%20Facts/Winter%20Preparation%20Checklist.doc>.
2. Keep your fuel tank as full as possible, but don't over-fill past the automatic shut-off. This will minimize water in the tank and will provide the maximum advantage in case of trouble.
3. A cell phone or CB radio can be a very useful item for emergencies.
4. Remember to leave a window slightly open if you use your vehicle's own heater or candle as a heat source. This is part of a winter survival kit. Read on for more on what to put in a kit.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can happen without the victim being aware until it is too late. The shelter and warmth of a vehicle can lead to a false sense of security during winter weather travel.

Following is an excellent example of a winter survival kit checklist.

- ▶ Keep a sleeping bag for each person, or several heavy blankets;
- ▶ Have a coffee can with large candles for heat, along with waterproof matches.
- ▶ Keep on hand wool caps, gloves, and socks, along with extra pairs of shoes or boots.
- ▶ Pack a first-aid kit with a pocket knife.
- ▶ Keep a large box of facial tissues or a few rolls of toilet paper or paper towels.
- ▶ Have a heavy-duty flashlight with extra batteries.
- ▶ Pack a shovel, such as a grain shovel or plastic folding shovel.
- ▶ Keep nuts, dried fruit, or candy available as a food source.
- ▶ Pack a small sack of sand or cat litter so a stuck vehicle can get added traction.
- ▶ Keep on hand any other items that you think would aid you, such as a deck of cards, another flashlight, flares, etc.

Also, abiding by a few of the following basic



safety rules, you can help protect yourself and others from the harness of winter.

- ▶ Check the latest forecast and road conditions before you start out.
- ▶ Dress for outdoor conditions (layers or clothing), not for the warmth of the vehicle.
- ▶ If you do become stranded, stay with your vehicle and make use of your survival kit.
- ▶ Another point to remember is a new vehicle, or one in tip-top shape, is no guarantee it won't break down.

Now that the vehicle is ready to go, what about the driver and passengers?

Mental preparation for winter driving is necessary because North Dakota winters can be unforgiving.

When driving on icy or snow covered roads, mental tension on your body creates fatigue faster. Plan on making more frequent stops during extended trips.

All of us need to stay focused on weather conditions and pay closer attention to our surroundings. Above all, use a little more common sense in what you do. For details call a unit safety rep or wing safety.

Snowblowers: Machines are excellent for removing snow, but can be dangerous to use

By Tech. Sgt. Rodney Krause
319th Air Refueling Wing safety office

I look back to mid-October of 2001, when the area was hit with a two-day winter storm that left a record amount of heavy wet snow behind its path. What a mess – however, my main focus for this particular article is the safe use of snowblowers.

Snowblowers come in many makes, styles, and sizes, but they all have one thing in common – they can be dangerous if not used properly.

If you are thinking about purchasing a snowblower – new or used – the first you need to consider is what size you will need. Shop around, and don't be afraid to ask questions.

If you have a smaller size driveway, you will not need a massive 12-horsepower, 28-inch cut machine to do the work a smaller unit can do for you. If you purchase a used machine, ensure that you get a owner's manual with it.

If the previous owner does not have the manual, more than likely the manufacturer has a Website or toll-free number to obtain



Capt. John Pantleo, 912th Air Refueling Squadron, uses a snowblower to clear the sidewalk at his residence in base housing this past winter.

one. Again, ask questions on how to operate it properly and safely. You may also want to ask about any maintenance records the previous owner may have.

Clearing snow from a jammed chute can also be a dangerous task. If your blower becomes clogged or jammed, shut off the engine then use a stick to clear to the chute. Do not use your hands to clear the chute, even if the engine is shut down.

Following is a checklist for proper snow blower safety.

- ▶ Work carefully around and keep your hands, feet, and clothing away from the machine's working parts.
- ▶ Always be sure of your footing, especially when operating the snow blower in reverse gear or on icy surfaces.
- ▶ Never leave your machine running while unattended.

- ▶ Know how to shut off the machine in the event of an emergency
- ▶ Make sure the discharge chute is not aimed at passing vehicles or pedestrians.

- ▶ Always disengage the machine's power drive and stop the engine before making any adjustments.

- ▶ To prevent fire or explosions, do not add fuel while the engine is running or hot.

- ▶ To prevent electrical shock, electrically powered snow blowers should only be operated with a heavy-duty grounded extension cord.

- ▶ Be sure to read the owner's manual and give your machine a safety check before each use.

- ▶ If you loan out your machine to neighbors and friends, go over the machine with them, ensure they understand how to operate it safely.

The bottom line to safe snowblower safety is using common sense, and staying focused to the task at hand.

For details on snowblower safety, call a unit safety representative or wing safety at 747-3361.

Base's severe winter weather program outlined in instruction

Compiled from staff reports

When bad weather hits the base, several steps must be taken to ensure safety of personnel and minimize risks. Guidelines for taking those steps are outlined in Grand Forks Air Force Base Instruction 10-103, Base Severe Winter Weather Program.

The plan employs a geographic tier system that allows the wing commander to release personnel who live furthest from the base while retaining "mission essential" personnel to keep operations running.

The tier system breaks out Grand Forks AFB and the surrounding area into a series of concentric rings. Each ring is approximately 10 miles wide, with Grand Forks AFB at the center.

The tiers are defined as follows:

- ▶ **Tier 1** consists of base proper to include Sunflake housing.
- ▶ **Tier 2** includes all area within a 10-mile radius from base.
- ▶ **Tier 3** includes all areas within a 10- to 20-mile radius from base.
- ▶ **Tier 4** includes all areas which extend beyond a 20-mile radius from base.

Various base agencies, offices, and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

When severe winter weather strikes the base, storm essential personnel are out clearing the way.

of this plan based upon weather conditions, safety factors, and need for mission accomplishment.

In the instruction, there are several definitions regarding implementation of the plan. The definitions provide standardization among base units. Those definitions include explaining adverse weather conditions, extreme cold temperatures personnel, mission essential personnel, storm essential personnel, minimum manning, telephone standby and travel conditions.

Most important in those instruction definitions may be who "mission essential" personnel are and how travel conditions are explained. Mission essential personnel are described as "a list of personnel the unit commander deems

absolutely essential to mission accomplishment when adverse or severe weather threatens."

The list lets unit personnel know in advance their duty status, eliminating confusion on who should report for work or go home when weather threatens. People are also advised to check with their supervisor to see if they are mission essential. Travel conditions are broke down into three areas: green, yellow and red.

organizations have different mission degrees of being "mission essential," the instruction states. There are certain actions some units will take while others will not. The wing commander has the prerogative to implement, modify, or selectively revoke portions

Reporting for civilian employees clarified

The following guidance from the 319th Mission Support Group clarifies procedures applicable for base civilian employees during deteriorating weather or driving conditions.

- ▶ **Early dismissal** – Should weather conditions warrant early dismissal, the civilian personnel office will announce, through the chain of command, that early dismissal is in effect.

The office will also identify those employees who are eligible for early dismissal and the appropriate time for departure.

Early dismissal applies to that particular shift. Only employees who are in a duty status (not on leave) or who are expected to return from leave to duty status at the time the early dismissal takes effect, are excused without charge to leave.

In the event an early dismissal is announced, employees should be released in 15-minute intervals to allow for a smooth traffic flow off the installation. Civilian personnel officials recommend releasing first those employees with the greatest distance to go.

- ▶ **Late reporting** – All employ-

ees assigned to any shift are expected to report to their duty stations on time unless the civilian personnel office has specifically authorized late reporting for that shift's employees.

When weather conditions warrant late reporting of civilian employees, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations.

These announcements will indicate the late arrival reporting time the civilian personnel office has authorized and will identify the employees who are eligible for late reporting. Another way to find out is to contact the base weather/snow phone line: 747-SNOW (7669).

It is the employee's responsibility to understand these reporting requirements and to ensure to comply with announced shift time changes.

Unauthorized absence from a duty station may lead to disciplinary action.

Employees and supervisors should ensure they understand these procedures and how they affect them.

For more details review Grand Forks AFB Instruction 10-103 or call the civilian personnel office at 747-5029.

Source: Civilian personnel office

Travel condition green means visibility is unrestricted, there is no snow, ice, mud, hail, water or severe weather affecting driving, the chill factor is -33 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, and travel actions are unrestricted.

Travel condition yellow says visibility is between 50 feet and ½ mile, severe weather or snow, ice, mud, hail, or water makes roads hazardous but passable, the chill factor is between -34 to -47 degrees F, and travel actions warn to use caution and not exceed a speed limit of 20 miles per hour on any roads on base.

Travel condition red states that visibility is less than 50 feet, roads are almost impassable due to severe weather or snow, ice, mud, hail or water on the roads, the chill factor is -48 degrees F or lower, and travel actions call for people to stay off the roads unless they are listed

as "snow essential" personnel.

Notifying the public of base closure, once the determination has been made at the earliest possible time, is done through the Commander's Access Channel (cable channel 3), and local radio and television stations.

People should also call the base weather/snow line: 747-SNOW (7669).

On-base schools work with 319th Mission Support Group officials to determine if base schools will open, and if conditions around the base will allow buses to safely reach Central High School in the city of Grand Forks.

For more details on the base severe winter weather program, consult the instruction or call the 319th Mission Support Group at 747-3580.

Community

Today

COMEDY NIGHT TICKET SALES

Ticket sales begin today for the Club’s comedy night. Advanced tickets, \$12 or at the door \$14. Members First get a \$2 discount. The show will be 7 p.m. Nov. 16 for mature audiences. For details, call 747-3392.

T-SHIRT QUILT WORKSHOP

Sign up by today for the skills development center’s T-shirt quilt workshop. The class will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 5 and 12. Cost is \$15, plus supplies. There will also be a Saturday class Nov. 9.

TEENSUPREME MEETING

Every Friday for ages 14 to 18 from 9 to 10 p.m. at Liberty Square TEEN Center. For details, call 747-3150.

FRIDAYS AT LIBERTY SQUARE

Open skating at Liberty Square tonight for ages 6 to 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$3 for admission and \$2 for skate rental!

The teen center at Liberty Square will be open tonight for ages 13 to 18 from 6 to 11 p.m.

Saturday

DANCING AT THE CLUB

Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and dance to “club mix” music with “DJ.”

Sunday

SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Club is having their Super Sunday Brunch today from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy two meats, biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, waffles, omelets and more. The next Sunday brunch will be Nov. 17.

FOOTBALL FRENZY

Join the Club for “Football Frenzy” today at noon; NFL Sunday Ticket – total of four games on at one time.

Monday

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Come to the Club tonight for more “Football Frenzy” for Monday Night Football Starter in the sports bar.

CANDY BINGO

Every Monday for ages 6 to 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the youth center.

Tuesday

START SMART PARENTS MEETING

There will be a parents meeting for START SMART basketball at 5 p.m. today at Liberty Square.

Wednesday

EVENING DINING AT THE CLUB

The “Frontier Grill” menu is offered every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Club. Wednesday nights are half price starters and Thursday nights kid’s menu is half price.

Thursday

T-SHIRT QUILT WORKSHOP

For those who could not make the week-day workshop – sign up by today for the skills development center’s T-shirt quilt workshop. The class will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 9. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

Upcoming

BASE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

This year’s base photography contest entries must be submitted to the skills development center no later than Nov. 8.

PRETEEN GEOGRAPHY BEE

This event will be held 5:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the youth center for ages 9 to 12.

AUTUMN LEAF DOOR DECORATION

The skills development center will have an autumn leaf decoration workshop 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov 13 and 20 (two-day class). Cost is \$15, plus supplies. Sign up by Nov. 11.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Airey dining facility will serve Thanksgiving dinner 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Hours of operation for breakfast Thanksgiving Day are 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and midnight meal is 11 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Get your team together and order a Thanksgiving take-out meal from the club (\$49.95 for 12-pound turkey with the all the trimmings for four or five people. For details, call the Club at 747-3392.

AWANA LEADERS MEETING

Anyone interested in starting an AWANA Club on base will meet 3 to 4 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Sunflower Chapel basement.

For details, call Chaplain (Capt.) Andrew McIntosh, at 747-6468.

Once in a lifetime: Base member gets opportunity, bags moose

By John Gorman
Outdoor recreation programs director

When most hunters think of North Dakota, visions of huge flocks of snow geese and thick skeins of mallards quickly come to mind. However, we have a very huntable moose population, and 40,000 applicants each year vie for the 100 or so tags available.

Elk, moose and bighorn sheep are a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity open to state residents only. The lottery draw is typically held in the spring with seasons set for the fall and early winter.

Tony Poupa, a master sergeant with the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was one of those 100 selected for a bull moose this season. His was only one of three bull tags drawn in area M1C in the northeastern part of the state. Staff Sgt. Eric Tilton, 319th AMXS, and myself were lucky enough to be asked by Poupa to accompany him.

We began searching for a bull in late July. We drove around much of the Pembina Gorge area talking to landowners and others about hunting moose. “No moose, but plenty of elk,” we were told. We scouted some of the prettiest and most rugged land in the northeastern part of the state. We kept looking at the ruggedness of the gorge, and wondering (both aloud and to ourselves) how in the world we’d ever get a moose out of that country once we got it down.

Much of the property we looked at was state wildlife management areas. There are marvelous public hunting grounds around Cavalier, Pembina, and Concrete, but vehicle access is restricted and dead game (including half-ton moose) must be packed out by foot. Unfortunately, we did

not find any signs of moose in or around the gorge and all the landowners we spoke with had not seen moose this year. It became evident we’d have to try and find a bull in another part of M1C.

Poupa volunteered for temporary duty to the Middle-East in late August; however, he was confident he’d return before the season ended. The M1C moose season was established to run from Oct. 4-27, and

Poupa thought he’d be able to hunt the last week of the season at the very least. So, it befell Eric and I to find a bull moose for Poupa, a task that would prove harder than expected.

We spoke to Gary Rankin who’s the game enforcement official in this area, and he suggested we talk to Paul Freeman, his counterpart in Walhalla. Tilton talked to Freeman

several times over the next two months. He was not optimistic about us finding a bull.

There are lots of moose, we were told, but most of them had migrated west of Langdon. Unfortunately, those animals were outside our moose hunting area. He told us though he’d keep an eye and ear out for moose sightings in M1C.

In early October, Tilton and I were scouting west of Concrete when Freeman confirmed a young bull had been killed near Fairdale. He told us there might be more around and we should concentrate there. Seems the moose were hanging out in sunflower and soybean fields and there are lots of those around that locale.

Before we could have a look-see around there, Poupa returned on Oct. 15. He and Tilton took out on Oct. 16 and 17 in search of a bull. Folks in Fairdale said there was a

mature cow and bull hanging out together in sunflower fields just north of town.

On the morning of Oct. 19, all three of us loaded in Tilton’s pickup and left Larimore before daylight. In the pickup bed was Eric’s four-wheeler and being towed behind was Poupa’s tilt-bed trailer. Along with the one-ton winch on the four-wheeler and a heavy-duty come-along, we felt we were prepared to take care of a moose.

We got to Fairdale before daybreak, stopped at the cafe to recharge our coffee mugs and headed north. Four miles out of town, Tilton spotted two moose in the middle of a bean field adjacent to sunflowers and a slough. We easily determined one of the animals was a bull, and after a short stalk, Poupa dispatched the critter with his .30-06 rifle. After cautiously approaching the animal, and verifying its demise, Poupa tagged it and we took pictures. Then, the hard work began.

Tilton hot-footed it back to Fairdale and talked to the landowner who told us we could drive out to retrieve the moose. Fortunately, there were three inches of fresh snow and the ground was frozen which made the chore of cleaning and loading the animal easier. Having the four-wheeler was helpful. Handling moose is no bargain in the field; the more strong hands you have, the better.

In our case, the four-wheeler let us attach to the animal and move it back and forth in order to get it cleaned out. After we winched it onto the trailer and tied it down, we realized we’d been at the task for nearly three hours. Three tired but happy moose hunters headed back to the Fairdale Cafe for a bowl of steaming homemade chili.

The moose was probably a 4½-year-old animal that the meat packer in Reynolds estimated at 1,200 pounds live-weight. The antlers taped 34 inches at the widest point. The meat will be split between the three families and provide choice eating this year. I took the liver and kidneys, and Poupa took the heart. The hide, cape, skull, horns, and hooves will be processed for Poupa to enjoy for many years. Tilton and I are satisfied we did our best to help Poupa enjoy his once-in-a-lifetime moose hunt.

Tony Poupa (left) is pictured with the “once-in-a-lifetime” moose he shot with the help of friend of Eric Tilton (right).

Photo by John Gorman



Shorts

VETERANS DAY CROSS COUNTRY RACE

The Grand Forks Park District, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1874 and the family support center sponsor the fourth annual Veterans Day Cross Country Race, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., at Lincoln Park golf course. All participants meet at the clubhouse.

The race will be an eight-kilometer run along the Greenway. Pre-register before Nov. 8 is \$10; race day registration is \$12. Medals will be awarded to all finishers.

It will be a European-style cross-country race, therefore, the terrain may not be conducive to ‘good’ running shoes. Spikes are allowed.

For details call Grand Forks Park District at 746-2750 or race director Earl beal at 747-3242.

TRAVELING BASKETBALL

Registration begins today through Nov.

15 for boys and girls in grades seven and up interested in participating on a traveling basketball team. Cost is \$37. Coaches are needed. For details, call 747-3150 or 747-7210.

FIT AND FUN CENTER

Parents with children between 24 months and 10 years old can now bring their children to the new fit and fun center in the base fitness center.

Located across from the climbing wall, this area allows parents to work out while directly supervising your child in the new play area. Before using the fit and fun Center, sign in at the fitness center’s reception desk. For details call 747-3384.

GALAXY BASKETBALL

Fridays at Liberty Square for ages 13 to 18 from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15 (minimum of 16 required to hold). For details, call Jeremy Swearingin at 747-7210.

DUCK HUNT

Outdoor recreation will offer a duck hunt today. Departure will be before daylight from outdoor recreation and will return in the afternoon.

Cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per youth 12 to 17; including transportation, hunting leader, dogs and decoys.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The youth center will have a “3 on 3” volleyball tournament today for ages 9 to 12 at 3:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 9 p.m. Choose your own teams of three.

DAKOTA LANES BOWLING CENTER

The bowling center has the following bowling activities:

► **Unlimited bowling:** Sunday from 6 to 9p.m.; \$5 per person; unlimited bowling; first-come, first-serve.

► **75-cent bowling:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.,

75 cents a game.

► **Saturday Galaxy bowling:** Galaxy bowl and register to win the next Saturday Galaxy bowling free for you and one other person. Must be used the following Saturday night. Cannot be carried over to any other Saturday night.

► **Family bowling:** Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Limit of three games per person. Cost is \$6 for two, \$9 for four.

YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING

Saturdays at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 to 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 to 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per hour and 75 cents for shoe rental. Need 10 to hold; must sign up at the youth center to attend.

TEEN HOT SHOT COMPETITION

The youth center will have a teen “hot shot” competition (basketball) Nov. 9 for ages 13 to 18. Trophy to the best shot.

Call 747-4150 for more details.